

Dear Sir, Madam,

I am writing this letter in Opposition to SB 1105. I am a Professional currently working with children with Autism at a private school in Connecticut. I presently hold certification and masters degrees in Behavior Analysis and Speech Language Pathology. I strongly believe that the training I received at Southern Connecticut State University as a Speech Language Pathologist DID NOT prepare me for the specialized education needed to adequately address problem behavior exhibited by students with autism. This training came from, and could only come from, my Behavioral Analysis educational and professional background.

Furthermore, there are not an adequate amount of SLP's, special education teachers and psychologists to meet CT students' current educational needs. Adding additional responsibilities to existing teachers will only water down the focused services being provided and will not meaningfully increase the number of providers. Without proper service delivery, students with autism will not advance in their learning but will very likely regress. Any regression will cause the cost of later treatment and lifelong care to increase. Please consider my request to vote in Opposition to SB 1105.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Leslie Michniewicz-McCarthy, M.A., CCC-SLP, M.A., BCBA

CT ASHA license 12100517

BCBA 1-01-0521